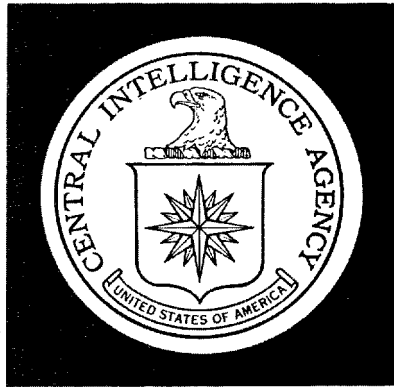
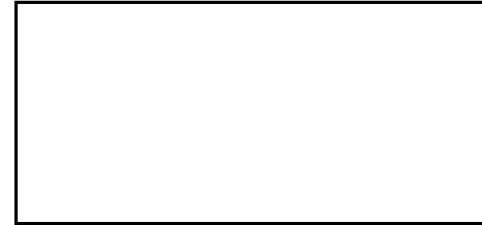


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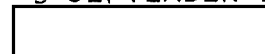
DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# Intelligence Memorandum

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(26 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 1968)

**Top Secret**

3 SEPTEMBER 1968



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
3 September 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam  
(26 August-1 September 1968)

Summary

Little new information on the flooding in North Vietnam is available, but military and logistics activities do not appear to have been significantly impaired. [REDACTED]

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rail traffic on the Hanoi - Lao Cai line continued to be disrupted north of Viet Tri, although some rail and highway facilities at Viet Tri, where floodwaters had receded, were back in use. Logistics activities in the Panhandle, however, continued at a high level.

Truck sightings [REDACTED] were only slightly below the averages noted since 1 April. Watercraft sightings were down slightly, but still were well above April-July weekly averages. [REDACTED]

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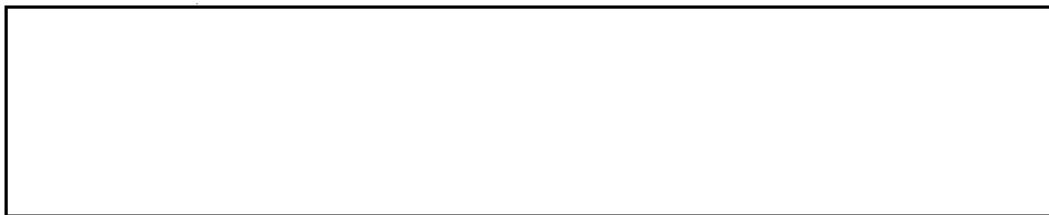
[REDACTED] New and improved logistics facilities continued to be detected, and roads continued to be repaired.

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*Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.*

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daily sorties south of the 19th Parallel continued.

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- 2 -



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North of the 20th ParallelFlooding

[redacted]  
[redacted] there is little new information on the status of flooded areas in North Vietnam. All indicators of logistics activity make it clear that the transport of supplies through North Vietnam and into Laos and South Vietnam has not been significantly impaired. Some receding of the extensive flooding observed [redacted]

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[redacted]  
of the three rail ferries at Viet Tri was again serviceable, and rail cars were observed on a nearby spur. Truck traffic had also resumed over the highway cable bridge. Although this bridge was not damaged by the flooding, the approaches had been inundated on the 18th. Rail service continued to be disrupted, however, by washed out portions of the line north of Viet Tri.

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3. A new road under construction from Yen Bai Airfield northward to a nearby mountainous area is intended either to shorten the road link between Yen Bai and the main road network from Hanoi to Lao Cai or for use in dispersing aircraft in the mountains. Numerous pieces of construction equipment being used in this construction indicate that high priority is being given to the project.

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Extensive construction activity, including earth removal and grading in the mountains near the northern terminus of the road construction, suggests that the North Vietnamese may be building hardened dispersal sites for aircraft.

Air Defense

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] At least 30 operational MIG-21's and 21 MIG-15/17's are now confirmed [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] based in North Vietnam. Flooding apparently was responsible for the evacuation of MIG-15/17's from Hanoi/Gia Lam Airfield to Phuc Yen [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

7. Ship congestion at Haiphong during August declined slightly from the record high level in July, but still remained serious and may have been responsible for a reduction in August ship

[REDACTED]

arrivals. The low level of foreign ship arrivals and seaborne imports during the last two months will probably result in a significant reduction in ship congestion during September.



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South of the 20th Parallel

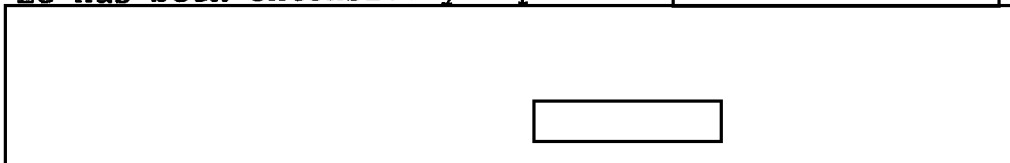
Logistics Facilities

9. New and improved logistics areas

along the major infiltration routes. A probable ammunition storage area located on Route 7 several miles west of Tri Le has been extensively improved.

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dispersed POL storage area was noted on Route 152, a principal route for vehicles proceeding south toward the DMZ and southern Laos. The new storage area is located near the intersection of Routes 15 and 152 and consists of about 20 revetted trenches along either side of the road. In addition, a road loop has been constructed nearby and contains additional revetted areas. Similar storage facilities have been previously located along most of Route 152 and are probably used in support of the heavy truck traffic often noted in the vicinity.

Construction Activity

10. Extensive road repair activity along most of Route 193 was detected. This route, located immediately above the central portion of the DMZ, is an important connector road joining Routes 102 and 103 which service the extensive trail system along the DMZ border.

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Truck Traffic

11. Truck activity within the Panhandle this past week was little changed

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from last week. Although truck sightings were again slightly below the weekly average noted since 1 April, the number reported to be destroyed and damaged was again considerably above the weekly average. Trucks reported destroyed continued to be well in excess of those reported damaged, as shown in the tabulation below. The majority of the truck losses were reported in Route Packages 2 and 3, an area where less than half of all attack sorties are flown.

|                                       | <u>Trucks</u>  |                        |                |   |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|                                       | <u>Sighted</u> | <u>De-<br/>stroyed</u> | <u>Damaged</u> | <u>Total<br/>Destroyed<br/>or<br/>Damaged</u> | <u>Effective<br/>Losses <u>a/</u></u> |
| This week <u>b/</u><br>(26 Aug-1 Sep) | 619            | 199                    | 74             | 273   | 168                                   |
| Last week<br>(19-25 Aug)              | 628            | 247                    | 29             | 276   | 192                                   |
| Weekly<br>average (since<br>1 Apr)    | 703            | 128                    | 69             | 207   | 116                                   |

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*b. Preliminary data.*

12. There was a slight increase in sightings of truck convoys and concentrations of vehicles. Concentrations of about 30 trucks each were sighted this past week on Route 15 just below the 19th Parallel, on Route 82 south of Vinh, and along Route 101 south of the Mu Gia Pass turnoff. Smaller concentrations were also noted at several points along coastal Route 1A south of Vinh and Ha Tinh.

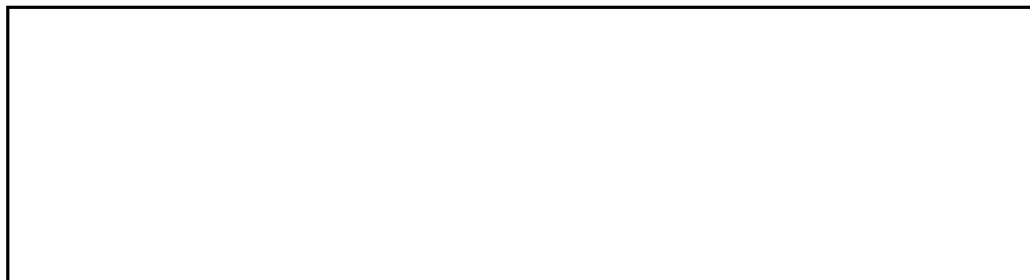


Waterways

13. Watercraft sightings [redacted] were slightly lower than last week but still well above the average weekly sightings noted since 1 April. The heaviest traffic was noted around Quang Khe, Nguon Nay upstream from Quang Khe, and in the Vinh area, particularly on the Ngan Sau which leads southwest away from the city.

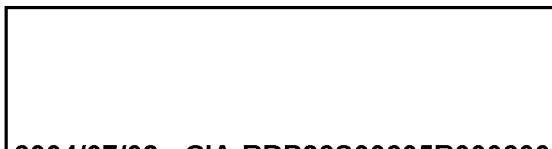
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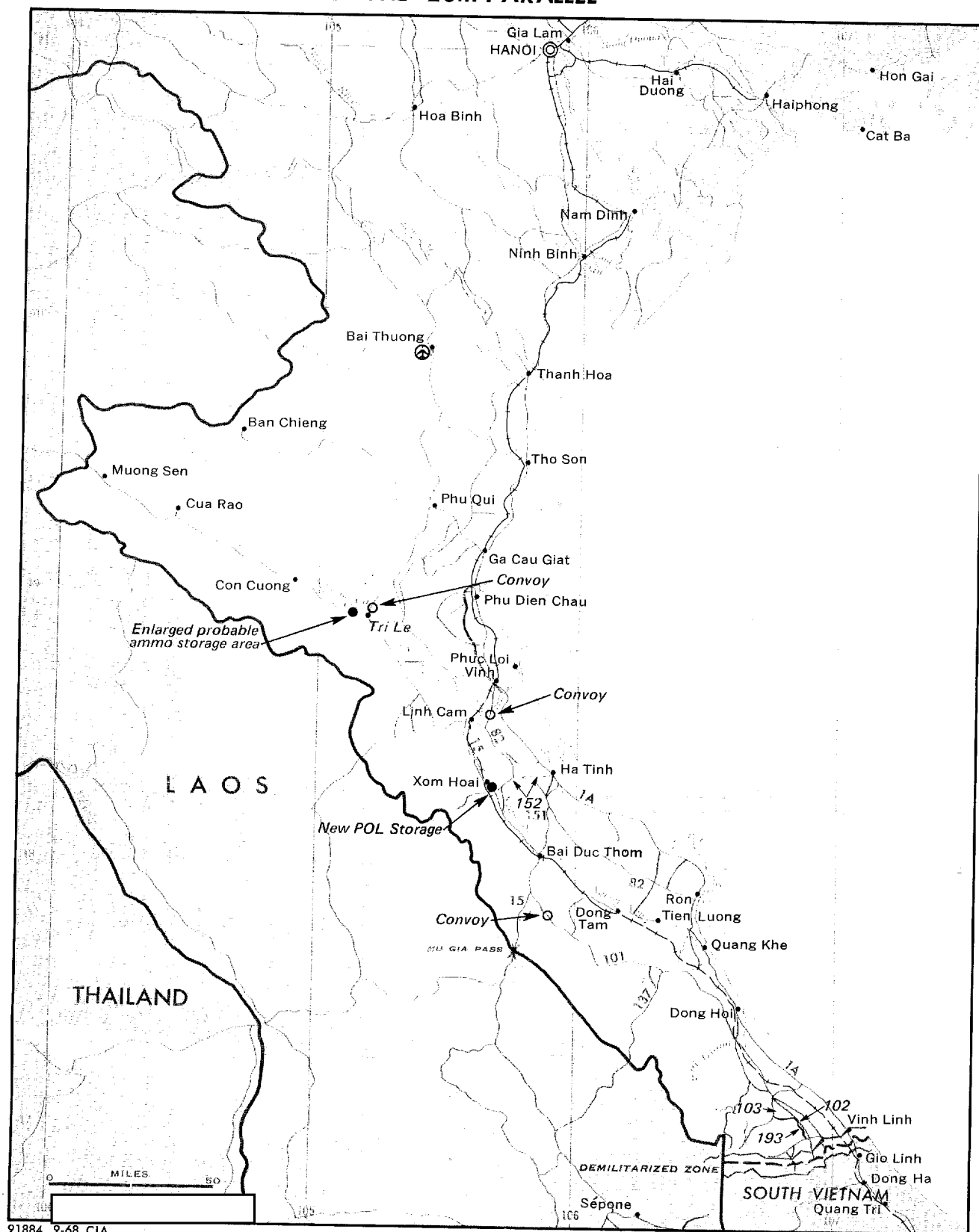


Air Operations

16. Daily North Vietnamese MIG fighter-interceptor patrols south of the 19th Parallel continued through 30 August, but no MIG's or US aircraft were downed.



# **NORTH VIETNAM SOUTH OF THE 20th PARALLEL**



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